



Volunteers pick up trash during Great Sierra River Cleanup

September 18, 2012



Volunteers pitch in to clean up the Tahoe Water Trail Saturday, Sept. 15, during the Great Sierra River Cleanup

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

About 2,800 volunteers collected about 90,000 pounds of trash, appliances, car parts and other debris during the fourth annual Great Sierra River Cleanup on Saturday, Sept. 15.

Volunteers scoured beaches and riverbanks to collect paper trash, aluminum cans, plastic bags, cigarette butts, cardboard, glass bottles and other items,

according to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. Some of the more interesting items removed during this year's cleanup include a rubber chicken, a four-piece wooden toilet with a duct-taped seat, a concrete statue of a rabbit and an old-fashioned lamp post.

“About two-thirds of Californians get their water from the Sierra, so it is noteworthy that so many volunteers take part in cleaning up our rivers, lakes and streams,” SNC Executive Officer Jim Branham stated. “In just four years, the Great Sierra River Cleanup has removed 571 tons of trash and debris from our watersheds.”

The Great Sierra River Cleanup took place at some 100 sites in the Sierra, and virtually every watershed was included. The event began in 2009 in conjunction with the annual California Coastal Cleanup event. Combined, the two events make up the largest annual one-day volunteer event in California.

The event was sponsored by SNC in partnership with 47 community organizations throughout the Sierra Nevada. For more information, visit www.sierranevada.ca.gov.